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CAYMAN ISLANDS

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. GENERAL 1/

1. The Territory of the Cayman Islands consists of three islands: Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. The latter two islands are also known as the Lesser Caymans. The Territory has a total area of approximately 260 square kilometres, divided as follows: Grand Cayman, about 195 square kilometres; Cayman Brac, 39 square kilometres; and Little Cayman, 26 square kilometres. George Town, the capital of the Territory, is located on Grand Cayman.

2. According to the results of the census of population and housing conducted in October 1989, the resident population of the Cayman Islands was 25,355, compared with 16,677 in 1979 when the previous census was taken. Some 13,202 persons, or 52 per cent of the residents of the Territory, were Caymanians by birth. 2/ The census showed that 94.2 per cent of the population reside on Grand Cayman; 1,445 people live on Cayman Brac and 33 persons live on Little Cayman. The population of George Town, the capital, is 12,972. 3/ The Cayman Islands Statistics Office estimated the total population of the Cayman Islands at the end of 1991 at 26,800. The birth rate in 1991 was estimated at 18 per 1,000, and the death rate at 4 per 1,000. 4/

II. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Constitution

3. An outline of the constitutional arrangements set out in the Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order, 1972, appears in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session. 5/ In brief, the Constitution provides for a Legislative Assembly consisting of the Governor (appointed by the Queen) who acts as President, three official members and 15 elected members (A/AC.109/1097, paras. 18 and 24). It also provides for an Executive Council consisting of the Governor as President, three official members and four members drawn from the elected members in the Legislature. The three official members of both bodies are the Financial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Administrative Secretary. Matters relating to the civil service, defence, external affairs and security are the responsibility of the Governor. The juridical system is based on English common law. There are two courts, the Summary Court (Lower Court) and the Grand Court.

4. Mr. Michael Edward John Gore was sworn into office as Governor of the Territory on 14 September 1992, replacing Mr. Alan James Scott. 6/

B. Administration

5. Routine government operations are administered by seven portfolios, three of which are headed by the official members of the Executive Council and four by the elected members. The portfolios of the official members are: Finance and Development, headed by the Financial Secretary; Legal Administration, headed by the Attorney General; and Internal and External Affairs, headed by the Administrative Secretary.

6. As a result of a reassignment of responsibilities by the Governor in the wake of the general elections of November 1988, the following departments have been entrusted to elected members: education, recreation and culture; tourism, aviation and trade; health and social services; and communications, works and natural resources. The elected members have responsibility for these portfolios, with the principal secretaries implementing the policies and overseeing the administration of the departments within their portfolios.

C. Constitutional review

7. The report of the Constitutional Commissioners who carried out a review of the Territory's Constitution at the request of the Government is outlined in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1097, paras. 9-24).

8. In brief, the report recommends, inter alia, that the procedure for the appointment of the Governor, and the responsibilities of the latter, should remain the same. A Chief Minister should be appointed from elected members of the Legislative Assembly by the Governor, who should also designate a Leader of the Opposition.

9. The number of members of the Legislative Assembly should be increased to 18 members before the next general elections, and the Assembly should be presided over by a Speaker. Finally, the amended Constitution would be brought into force immediately following the general elections.

D. Political parties and elections

10. There are no officially recognized political parties in the Cayman Islands. General elections for the elected seats in the Legislative Assembly are held every four years.

11. In the elections of 18 November 1992, 12 of the 15 seats in the Assembly were won by a group of candidates known as the National Team which opposed the proposed new Constitution as well as excessive government expenditure. 7/ The three other seats were won by independent candidates. 8/

12. The National Team was especially critical of the constitutional clause advocating the designation of a Chief Minister with overall responsibility for government, as opposed to the current form of government (Executive Council) which places collective responsibility on all its members. 7/

13. Voters seemed to put part of the blame for the country's ills on the four members of the Executive Council chosen by the Legislature. As a result, the four lost their seats in the elections. 7/

14. Election officials said that early returns showed that more than 90 per cent of the Territory's 10,193 registered voters had gone to the polls, a record turn out for the islands. 9/

E. External relations

15. The Government of the Cayman Islands cooperates directly with other Governments in the Caribbean and participates in regional conferences and projects for the Caribbean region established by Governments, international organizations and agencies. The Territory is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

16. The Cayman Islands, together with 18 other countries of the region, is a member of a Caribbean customs agreement entitled "The Memorandum of Understanding regarding Mutual Assistance and Cooperation for the Prevention and Repression of Customs Offences in the Caribbean Zone" aimed at preventing drug trafficking, smuggling of funds, money laundering, false invoicing and other crimes. 10/

17. The Cayman Islands is a member of the Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institution (CAROSAI), which provides assistance in streamlining auditing standards and computer audit. In July 1991, the Cayman Islands Auditor General was elected as a member of the Executive Board and appointed as Chairman-elect of CAROSAI for the period 1994-1997. The Territory has been selected as the venue for the third CAROSAI Congress to be held in 1994. 11/

F. Public service

18. In 1991, the public service of the Cayman Islands comprised 1,715 civil servants, of whom 1,046 were Caymanians and 669 were expatriates. All expatriates were employed on contract or on temporary basis. As at the end of 1990, public service employees included 154 from the Caribbean area, 138 from the United Kingdom and 77 from other countries. The Government continued to encourage young Caymanian officers to further their education and obtain the necessary qualifications and experience required to replace expatriate officers.

19. Of the Caymanian civil servants employed in 1991, 659 were in executive and sub-professional grades, 151 in administrative and professional grades and 236 in clerical and technical positions. There were 37 government departments, 23 of which were headed by Caymanians.

20. In March 1992, the Government announced that it had taken steps towards greater localization of the civil service. This was in response to a report by the Public Accounts Committee which had recommended that a detailed plan of action on localization should be prepared, with a timetable for specific goals and targets. 12/

21. The Government said that a substantial amount of research would be required for the preparation of such a plan, together with a major investment to allow the recruitment and training of individuals for the available jobs. Furthermore, it had been impossible to find qualified Caymanians for certain professional posts, such as doctors and marine surveyors, making it necessary to advertise overseas. 12/

22. Of the three official members of both the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly, two are Caymanians - the Financial Secretary and the Administrative Secretary.

23. All matters related to appointments, transfers, promotions, training, dismissals, retirement and disciplinary control of public officers are supervised by the Public Service Commission which advises the Governor on those questions.

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

24. The major economic sectors of the Cayman Islands are the financial industry, tourism, construction, the real estate business and local industry. Tourism and international finance contribute significantly to the development of the Territory by providing substantial amounts of capital and foreign exchange.

25. Since the mid-1960s, the development of agriculture has lagged behind the rapidly growing sectors of tourism, international finance and construction; consequently, there is a substantial dependence on food imports. There is a small manufacturing sector, which the Government, in its efforts to diversify the economy, has tried to expand in recent years.

26. Mr. Thomas Jefferson, the unofficial leader of National Team, recommended that the new Government's priorities should be as follows: reduce spending; balance the budget; slow down growth to manageable levels; increase tourism, the mainstay of the Territory's economy; debate fully in the Legislature the form of government presided over by a Chief Minister, as proposed in the draft constitution, before endorsing or rejecting the idea; tackle the growing crime and drug problem in the country; and, finally, promote youth and sport activities. 9/

27. When the Executive Council declined to study the above recommendations, Mr. Jefferson resigned his civil service position as the Territory's Secretary of Finance. 7/

28. Mr. Jefferson stated that, with a deficit of some US$ 50 million inherited from the previous Government, he did not see any large-scale projects being approved during the early days of the new Government. 9/

29. He added however, that despite the deficit, the Government would not seek funds from the United Kingdom, stressing that the Cayman Islands had not needed funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the past 30 years. 9/

30. It was reported in August 1992, 13/ that according to the Cayman Islands Statistics Office, the Territory's 1991 per capita income of US$ 25,300 (or CI$ 21,083) 14/ was the highest in the Caribbean, exceeding even that of the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom.

31. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) reported that the overall economic growth in 1991 fell from 11.2 per cent in the previous year to 5.3 per cent. 15/ During the same period, the consumer price index rose by 8 per cent. 16/

32. During the period under review, the gross national product was CI$ 558 million. Agriculture was the fastest growing sector of the economy (34 per cent increase over the previous year). Financial services grew by 7 per cent, 13/ imports declined by CI$ 16.8 million to CI$ 222.9 million and exports fell to CI$ 2.5 million. The Territory thus had a negative balance of trade of CI$ 220.4 million. 17/

33. The Cayman Islands recently undertook to revise its 1977 Development Plan. To this end, the Development Plan Review Committee was set up. It started work in August 1992 and expects to submit to the Government its completed work in June 1993. 18/

34. The basic draft elements of the Plan have been divided into four groups: population and housing as well as natural, historical and cultural preservation; infrastructure, community services and facilities; neighbourhood plans, time-critical issues, and implementation programmes; and land use and district plans. 18/

35. In his 1991 budget address to the Legislative Assembly, the Financial Secretary outlined the economic prospects for 1992-1993, stating that the economic prospects for the Territory would depend, for the most part, on the conditions prevailing during that period in the world economy, particularly in the United States.

B. Public finance

36. The government deficit in 1991 amounted to US$ 1.6 million, with total expenditure of US$ 160.7 million and revenue of US$ 159.1 million, which included loans of US$ 17.6 million for capital projects. Civil service salaries accounted for US$ 72.2 million or 45 per cent of total expenditure and 58 per cent of recurrent expenditure. 19/

37. It was the Government's third consecutive annual deficit. According to the Accountant General, total expenditure had been generally balanced by local revenue up to 1989, but increased expenditure on new programmes since 1990 had required loan funding or transfers from reserves to balance the budget. 19/

38. The public debt stood at US$ 21.3 million at the end of 1991, compared with US$ 7.0 million a year earlier. 19/

39. The increasing pressure on public finances had prompted the introduction of a series of institutional arrangements and procedures in 1990 to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of revenue collection and expenditure control. The arrangements, particularly on the expenditure side, were streamlined further during 1991, and the 1992 budget contained taxation measures designed to raise an additional US$ 11 million. 20/

40. New tax measures provide for increases in the following: taxes on alcohol and tobacco products and on imports of diesel fuel; fees for company registration and for applications for planning permission for development projects. No provision for new borrowings was contained in the 1992 budgetary proposals since the Government intends to reduce the net transfer of financial resources to external creditors as part of the strategy to control public expenditure. 20/

41. The unfavourable trends in public finances prompted a review of the functions and services provided by the Government, with the object of identifying those functions which could be privatized. Arrangements are currently in progress to restructure the medical services' delivery system, including providing for medical insurance and establishing a statutory body for the administration of medical services, with a view to making the entire system self-financing. 20/

42. The Government continued its efforts to broaden the country's economic base and to address the issues raised by the need to import labour. An implementation unit to coordinate and carry out the activities designated under the Agricultural Development Plan was established in 1992. During the same year, the report and recommendations of the 1990 manpower demand survey were accepted by the Government, and steps were taken to set up a manpower planning section within the portfolio of Finance in 1992. 20/

43. As part of its effort to develop human resources, the Government announced the formalization of a summer internship training programme directed at Caymanians studying abroad and designed to provide practical working experience for students. The programme will start with the civil service but will subsequently be expanded to include interested private sector firms.

C. Land tenure, agriculture, livestock and fisheries

44. As a result of a cadastral survey, commenced in 1971, all land in the Cayman Islands is registered under a modified system, known as the Torrence system, the basic principle of which is that the land itself, rather than title deeds, is registered. This ensures that land dealings can take place efficiently and simply, although land certificates are often loosely described as "title deeds" to property. A stamp duty of 7.5 per cent is levied on the sale and exchange of land or other real estate. The Land Registry is responsible for the registration of all land transactions; the collection of duty stamps on land transfers, mortgages and other legal documents; and the maintenance of all land records and registry maps.

45. During 1991, the Land Registry processed 1,709 land transactions. The value of land transfers amounted to CI$ 136.3 million in 1991, compared with CI$ 118.9 million in 1990. 21/ As of September 1992, the value of land transfers was CI$ 84.35 million. 22/

46. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for the regulation and development of the agricultural sector. It provides services in agronomy, veterinary medicine and surgery, and sells supplies and equipment to users.

The Government allows the duty-free importation of equipment and other items for agricultural use only. 23/

47. The Farmers' Market operations, run by the Cayman Islands Cooperative Society Ltd., are subsidized by the Government. The subsidy covers staff salaries as well as the majority of operating expenses. Improved accounting and payment procedures are encouraging more farmers to channel their produce through the Farmers' Market. Overall, the quality of produce is high and the prices are competitive with those of imported produce. 24/

48. In 1990, the territorial Government initiated a five-year Agricultural Development Plan aimed at decreasing the dependence of the Cayman Islands on imported food. The Department of Agriculture concentrated its efforts on introducing several varieties of pawpaw, green peppers and other vegetables in the Territory. The Department also undertook to improve the quality of its extension services through the training of its personnel. Those efforts resulted in an increase in the production of beef and vegetables. 24/

49. In September 1992, the Government announced the appointment of an agricultural officer to monitor the implementation of the Agricultural Development Plan. Under the scheme, the officer, a Barbadian agronomist, will also assist the Department of Agriculture in providing technical assistance to farmers. 25/

50. Also under the plan, the Government recently began to provide technical and marketing support services for the development of hydroponics. The Government hopes to develop this soilless agriculture on a wider scale as very high yields can be achieved from a much smaller area than that under field-grown conditions. 26/

51. In a study commissioned by the Government under the aegis of the Agricultural Development Plan Implementation Unit of the Department of Agriculture, 27/ an agricultural statistician consultant calculated that the local agricultural sector consisted of 189 farmers operating a total of 3,710 hectares of farmland.

52. Of the above, 164 farmers operated in Grand Cayman on 3,274 hectares of farmland and the remaining 25 farmers in Cayman Brac on 436 hectares; 93 per cent of the farmers on Grand Cayman owned their farms, 32 per cent of those on Cayman Brac owned theirs.

53. In the area of utilization of farmlands, the report noted that a major portion of the land on Grand Cayman, i.e. 1,582 hectares, was being used as grassland, principally for livestock grazing. This included 869 hectares of "improved pasture", that is, pasture which had been fertilized or worked on to control weeds.

54. On the same island, land with crops totalled 143 hectares; uncultivable land, 421 hectares; and "other lands" (including wasteland, woodland, land covered by buildings or rocky outcrops, etc.) approximately 1,214 hectares. Cayman Brac followed a similar pattern with 336 hectares devoted to grassland and only 4.85 hectares to crops.

55. The survey showed that on Grand Cayman, the most extensively grown crop was citrus, with a total of 38 hectares under cultivation, followed by bananas with 22 hectares, and then plantains and mangoes with a total of 13 hectares each. Yams, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, watermelons and cassava were being cultivated on 9, 7, 4, 4 and 4 hectares of land, respectively.

56. The area of livestock farming consisted mainly of cattle and pigs, with 1,453 head of cattle, 564 pigs and 105 goats on Grand Cayman, and 186 head of cattle in Cayman Brac.

57. Most of the cattle was owned by farmers in the area of Grand Cayman called Savannah, which the consultant identified as both the primary source of beef production on the island and the area which ought to become the focal point of efforts to improve the cattle industry of Cayman Islands. 27/

D. Tourism

58. Tourism continues to be a dominant sector of the economy and a major source of foreign exchange of the Territory.

59. According to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), 20/ stopover arrivals in the Cayman Islands during 1991 amounted to 237,351, a decline of 6.2 per cent from the 1990 total. Preliminary data on cruiseship passenger arrivals indicated a rise of 31.3 per cent to 474,747, while total visitor arrivals reached 712,098, an increase of 15.8 per cent over the 1990 arrivals.

60. Stopover arrivals during the first part of the year were adversely affected by passenger concern over the safety of air travel during the Gulf war; the increase in air ticket costs as a result of fuel price increases; and the effects of the recession in the United States on air passenger traffic throughout the year.

61. The number of stopover visitors from the United States declined by 14,627, accounting for 92.5 per cent of the total decrease in stopover visitors. The drop in air arrivals triggered a reduction in staff levels in a number of hotels and contributed to staff and compensation cutbacks. In addition, it led to the introduction of other cost-control measures at Cayman Airways Ltd., the government-owned air carrier. 20/

E. Financial sector

62. The banking and trust industry has expanded considerably since its inception in the Territory in the early 1960s and has transformed the Cayman Islands into one of the world's leading offshore financial centres.

63. The number of registered companies in the Cayman Islands rose to 23,700 in 1991 from 22,260 in 1990. Reflecting the importance of offshore activity, the greater part of the increase (64 per cent) took place in the "Exempt" category (companies incorporated in the Cayman Islands but carrying on business with non-residents), with domestic companies doing business locally making up the bulk (34 per cent) of the remainder. The number of registered banks and trust

companies fell to 544 as a result of the decrease from 34 to 32 in the number of institutions licensed to do business with residents. On the other hand, the number of licensed offshore insurance companies rose to 365 from 359 at the end of 1990. The number of offshore institutions remained unchanged at 512. 28/ Total assets of licensed banks at the end of 1991 amounted to more than US$ 450 billion. 13/

F. Transport and communications

64. Transport, communications and other basic facilities continued to be of paramount importance to the economy of the Territory in terms of uniting the three islands and servicing the tourist industry and other activities of the business community.

Air

65. The State-owned Cayman Airways Ltd. registered a loss of US$ 4.8 million in the second half of 1991, of which US$ 3 million was an operating loss, and the remainder, the result of the termination of an aircraft lease and the cost of damage to an aircraft. At the end of 1991, the airline's accumulated deficit was US$ 32.7 million. 19/

66. At the instigation of the Government, the Legislative Assembly approved a CI$ 16.8 million recapitalization bill for Cayman Airways Ltd. in July 1992. 29/

67. On 20 August 1991, Air Cayman Ltd., a new airline company, was registered in the Cayman Islands as an ordinary resident company. Air Cayman Ltd. has three leased planes in operation, two Boeing 737-200 and one Boeing 737-300. 28/

68. In February 1991, the Cayman Islands and Cuba inaugurated charter services between the Owen Roberts International Airport and Cayo Largo, a Cuban duty-free resort islands. 30/ In December 1991, United Airlines, a United States airline company, took over Pan American's former Miami-Grand Cayman route. 29/

Sea

69. All ports in the Territory come under the control of the Port Authority, a corporate body set up in 1976 and operating without governmental subsidy. The territorial Government guarantees CDB loans, but it is the Port Authority that repays the loans. In addition to managing all ports in the Islands, the Authority has other functions, including the establishment of markers and lighthouses, the control of berths, the establishment and control of transit sheds, the loading and unloading of vessels and the supervision of territorial waters. 31/

70. The Territory is not served by any scheduled passenger lines but a number of locally owned or locally registered vessels provide cargo service between the Cayman Island and Miami and Tampa, Florida, the United States; as well as the Cayman Island and Kingston, Jamaica, and Costa Rica. 32/

71. In October 1992, the Registration of Merchant Ships Law, 1991, came into force in the Territory. Under the new law, owners of foreign flag ships can apply for registration in the Territory and once registered, can fly the Caymanian flag. The law applies to ships of 1,600 metric tons and over. 33/

Roads

72. The road infrastructure comprises 80 kilometres of roads connecting all districts on Grand Cayman, 34 kilometres of usable roads on Cayman Brac and a road on Little Cayman; roads on Grand Cayman and Little Cayman are fit for motor travel. 34/ In September 1992, in a report to the Legislative Assembly, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) expressed concern about the maintenance of government roads and buildings. 35/

73. PAC said that the budget provisions for road maintenance were inadequate to maintain roadways at a proper level of serviceability. It noted that maintenance costs of up to CI$ 2 million would be required over the next 5 to 10 years to prevent the roads from deteriorating. 35/

Telecommunications

74. According to press reports, a high technology United States radar station being built in the Cayman Islands will have a range of 265 statute miles, which will enable it to monitor air traffic in the region, among other functions. 36/

75. A spokesman for the United States Air Force is said to have stated that the radar will also provide search and rescue data, air drug-detection surveillance and related law enforcement coordination. The radar station is part of the Caribbean Basin Radar Network (CBRN) currently being built throughout the Caribbean by the United States Department of Defence at a cost of approximately US$ 16 million per site. 36/

76. In May 1992, the Cayman Islands first commercial radio station went on the air. 37/ In September 1992, the Territory's second television station began broadcasting. The network is one of three companies the Government had approved in 1991 to provide free over-the-air (ie., non-cable) television broadcasts as well as cable programmes in the Territory. 38/

G. Assistance from the United Nations system of organizations

77. Within the United Nations system, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to be the main source of technical assistance to the Territory. In response to the need for skills to support an expanding service-oriented economy, the second country programme (1987-1991) focused on human resources development. Fellowships and in-service training accounted for some 83 per cent of programme resources. Eight out of 13 implemented projects were agency-executed, involving the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the following: administration of fellowships; provision

of technical advice; and procurement of equipment for civil aviation, broadcasting and the water sector. In the third country programme (1992-1996), UNDP will assist the Government in the areas of fiscal administration, education, agriculture, social services, manpower planning and human resources development, as well as economic planning and management.

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour and immigration

Labour

78. The labour force in the Territory is made up of both Caymanians and expatriates from countries in Central America, as well as from Canada, Jamaica, the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere. Foreign workers must acquire work permits from the Immigration Department in order to work in the Territory. As of October 1991, the total labour force of the Territory was 16,745. 12/

79. As of June 1992, there were 9,856 gainful occupational licences in effect and the number of dependants accompanying those licence holders totalled 2,237. Of these licences, there were 2,106 short-term non-renewable permits in effect which were issued mainly to nationals from Jamaica and other Central American countries. The geographical composition of the non-Caymanian labour force by origin was as follows: North America, 1,897 persons; Jamaica and Honduras, 2,042; other West Indian and Central American countries, 1,357; United Kingdom and Ireland, 1,164; Canada, 710; and elsewhere, 580. 39/

80. The breakdown of all non-Caymanians employed in the Territory, by occupational group, was as follows: professional, 1,722; skilled, 4,440; semi-skilled and unskilled, 3,694 persons. The breakdown of licence holders by sector of the economy was as follows: services, 2,647; domestic, 328; construction, 1,561; tourist industry, 1,322; finance, 876; education, religion, recreation, culture and sports, 704; and agriculture, 256. 39/

81. In March 1992, a local newspaper quoted the Government's Labour Force Survey of October 1991 as saying that the level of education and training among Caymanians had improved dramatically over the past 30 years. 12/

82. The newspaper said that the percentage of Caymanians with more than primary education was as follows: over 44 years old - 42 per cent; 35-44 years old - 75 per cent; and 25-34 years old - 83 per cent.

83. The survey showed that 65 per cent of working Caymanians had done some kind of occupational training, most frequently on-the-job training. Over a third of expatriates who were members of the labour force had received full-time training at an institute, while only a fifth of Caymanians had done so. Part-time training was more popular among Caymanians.

84. In the field of underemployment, the survey showed that a total of 625 people working part time would like to work full time. Of this number, 385 or 62 per cent were women.

85. The unemployment figure was given as 5.9 per cent, with 990 people out of work. Many of the unemployed were from the construction industry which had experienced difficulties due to the slow-down in the world economy. Of this group, 360 cited disability as their reason for not working.

86. For the employed people who held only one job, the work hours frequently totalled 40 to 44 hours a week, while those who held more than one job tended to work more than 65 hours a week. 12/

Immigration

87. In March 1992, the Cayman Protection Board warned that there would be increased Territory-wide surveillance and enforcement to ensure compliance with immigration requirements in respect of work permits. The Board said that detection of violations may result in the refusal or revoking of work permits, or possible prosecution involving fines and imprisonment. 40/

88. At the same time, the Board appealed to employers to pursue all available options in local recruitment before seeking to apply for, or renew, a permit. In this connection, employers are now required to advertise job vacancies in the local press twice weekly for two weeks before submitting applications for work permits to the Board. 40/

89. Figures released by the Statistics Office in March 1992 4/ showed that the growth rate of the expatriate population, which had reached new heights of 15 per cent in 1987, 18 per cent in 1988 and 18 per cent in 1989, had slowed to an all-time low of 1 per cent in 1990, increasing only slightly in 1991 to 3 per cent.

90. In July 1992, the Legislative Assembly passed a new Immigration Law, following a review of the Caymanian Protection Law by a House Select Committee. The new law abolished the Caymanian Protection Board and introduced in its place the Immigration Board. 41/

B. Public health

91. Health care in the Cayman Islands is provided by the Health Services Department, which is responsible for all government health care, including public health services and services by private practitioners. The Health Practitioners Board is charged with overseeing the standard of health care provided in the Cayman Islands. There are two divisions of public health services: one encompasses community health service, primary care through the district health centres, and functions specified in the health laws, programmes which are supervised by the Medical Officer of Health; the other division covers the environmental health concerns of the Territory. 42/

92. The Government operates the 52-bed (including 7 nursery beds) Cayman Islands Hospital and an 8-bed extended care unit at the Pines Retirement Home on Grand Cayman, and the 10-bed Faith Hospital on Cayman Brac. In addition, primary care is provided through four district health centres on Grand Cayman. There is sustained utilization of district health centres. A new hospital is being built at George Town. 43/

93. The Caribbean Epidemiology Centre based in Trinidad and Tobago conducted a workshop in October 1992 in the Cayman Islands to update public health nurses and paediatricians on the use of vaccines. The elimination of measles in the English-speaking Caribbean in 1995 and the eradication of poliomyelitis in the Americas by the year 2000 were discussed. 44/

94. The Executive Council Member for Health and Social Services stressed that a high proportion of the Territory's population had been immunized against various diseases. He reported a proportion of 95 per cent for diphtheria and polio and over 90 per cent for measles, mumps and rubella. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to providing the necessary support for the prevention of diseases. 44/

95. As of April 1991, a total of 20 persons in the Cayman Islands tested positive for the human immune deficiency virus (HIV). Ten persons developed acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), with eight cases ending in death. In 1991, a confidential AIDS screening programme, free of charge, was launched in the Territory. 45/

96. In October 1992, local doctors attended the first combined Health Services Authority (HSA) and Cleveland Clinic update symposium. The purpose of the event was to keep Cayman's physicians abreast with a broad range of medical subjects. 22/

97. The Executive Council Member for Health and Social Services said that the Government had set up a 15-year health plan based on the recommendations of consultants commissioned in 1989 to develop a health delivery systems plan and a health facilities plan for the island.

98. The recommendations included restructuring of the health services; expansion of in-patient capacity; development of secondary and tertiary care; redefinition of the public health services to focus on disease surveillance; education tracking and reporting; and development of the district clinics into district health centres.

99. Structural reorganization had led to the creation of HSA, the launching of the construction of a new hospital, and the alternative financing of healthcare through the national health insurance scheme.

100. A very important part of the 15-year health plan had been the development of relations with the Cleveland Clinic of Ohio and Florida. Over the past two years, the clinic had provided high quality care to some 150 patients per year. It had also provided monthly visiting specialists, monthly continuing education sessions and staff training. 22/

101. In September 1992, the Cayman Islands participated in the third annual meeting of the Caribbean British Dependent Territories Conference held in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Conference dealt with technical cooperation, with emphasis on health matters. The main issue was the health of the mother and the child. The Cayman Islands were represented at the Conference by the Executive Council Member for Health and Social Services. 46/

C. Educational conditions

102. Education is free and compulsory for Caymanian children between 4 years, 9 months and 16 years of age. There are nine government and six church-sponsored primary schools. There are two government high schools, a new middle school and two private secondary schools.

103. The territorial Government continued to place high priority on education and pursued its efforts to upgrade the educational facilities. New facilities provided at the Cayman Islands High School included a new modern home economics block and a new science laboratory. Plans have been drawn up for a science block at the Cayman Islands High School and a technology block at the Cayman Brac High School. Other construction included a new classroom block at Savannah Primary School, and plans have been drawn up for a new infant school to accommodate the growing intake at the John A. Cumber Primary School at West Bay. 47/ In March 1992, the Government unveiled plans for the construction of a new primary school at Red Bay. 48/

104. The Community College of the Cayman Islands is a government-financed, post-secondary and adult education facility, whose board is comprised of government and public representatives. The College caters to over 1,000 students, 20 full-time staff and an almost equal number of part-time staff. 43/ In 1992, the College produced 53 graduates. The work of the College is organized in three departments, namely, business studies, hotel studies and technology.

105. The International College of the Cayman Islands, a private independent institution of higher education, with a campus at Newlands, Grand Cayman, and a campus at Miami, Florida, United States, is accredited as a senior college by the Accrediting Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools, Washington. The institution offers a Masters of Science degree in management, Bachelor of Science and Associate of Science degrees, and one certificate.

106. The Cayman Islands Law School offers an opportunity to Caymanians to qualify locally in a profession that plays an important role in the islands' modern development. The Attorney-at-Law course, which forms the main part of the law school's curriculum, is of five years' duration, with examinations at the end of each year. In addition, an opportunity to study law is offered through a wide variety of courses, including a two-year diploma course in legal studies intended to enhance career and promotional opportunities for Caymanians.

107. In August 1991, a government-launched educational review was completed. 49/ On the basis of the educational review, the Government prepared a five-year education plan, which was presented in 1991 to the Legislative Assembly, 50/ and subsequently adopted by the Assembly. 51/ In September 1992, the Education Department introduced the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) certificates to replace the Cambridge General Certificate of Education (GCE). 52/

D. Crime and crime prevention

108. In October 1992, the Territory's police force issued a special bulletin expressing concern over the increasing number of robberies taking place in the Islands, most of which could be drug-related. The bulletin called on the public to exert caution by implementing crime-prevention measures, and to report drug crimes to the Drug Squad. 53/

109. During the period under review, quantities of drugs and drug-related assets were seized by the Caymanian police force, and a number of arrests were made. 54/ In a related development, Cayman Airways, Ltd. took measures to tighten its security procedures to stop smugglers from using its aircraft to transport drugs into the United States. 55/

110. In October 1992, the Cayman Islands were represented at an asset forfeiture conference held in London for representatives of law enforcement agencies of the United Kingdom, the United States and dependent Territories. The conference included an overview of asset forfeiture law, practice and policy; international asset forfeiture cooperation; the role of law enforcement in asset forfeiture; and financial investigations and prosecutions. 56/

111. The Acting Attorney General of the Territory, who attended the conference, said that as an adjunct of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty signed between the Cayman Islands and the United States, the Territory was about to enter an asset-sharing programme with the United States. This would allow the sharing of forfeited drug proceeds confiscated by the United States authorities, resulting from assistance given by the Cayman Islands. 56/ The Territory signed the Treaty with the United States in May 1992, after signing a similar one with the United Kingdom in July 1991.

112. In a letter dated 5 August 1991, a representative of the administering Power replied to a query addressed to him by the Secretary of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, on behalf of the Subcommittee, as follows:

> "The British Government has provided equipment and professional advice to the Royal Cayman Islands Police Force and assists them in links with other police forces in the United Kingdom and other countries. They are members of a regional drugs intelligence system established by the British Government."

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, on 24 July and 30 December 1991 for the years 1990 and 1991, and on 21 April 1992 for the year 1992.

2/ The Caymanian Compass, 4 July 1990; see also Living in the Cayman Islands (Cayman Islands Government Information Services, 1990), pp. 5 and 6.

Notes (continued)

3/ The Cayman Islands Annual Report, 1989 published by the Government of the Cayman Islands (George Town, Grand Cayman, British West Indies), pp. 155 and 156.

4/ The Caymanian Compass, 6 March 1992.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9023/Rev.1), vol. V, chap. XXIV, annex, sect. B, paras. 5-13.

6/ The Caymanian Compass, 16 September 1992.

7/ Ibid., 20 November 1992.

8/ Caribbean Insight (United Kingdom), December 1992.

9/ Foreign Broadcast Information Services, Daily Report, Latin America, 23 November 1992.

10/ The Caymanian Compass, 16 November 1989.

11/ Ibid., 22 July 1991.

12/ Ibid., 24 March 1992.

13/ Caribbean Update (United States of America), August 1992.

14/ The local currency is the Cayman Islands dollar (CI$). Under the articles of agreement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), parity of the Cayman Islands dollar to the United States dollar is fixed at CI$ 1.00 = US$ 1.20.

15/ The Caymanian Compass, 25 May 1992.

16/ Ibid., 9 January 1992.

17/ Ibid., 12 February 1992.

18/ Ibid., 20 October 1992.

19/ Caribbean Insight, November 1992.

20/ Caribbean Development Bank, Annual Report, 1991.

21/ The Caymanian Compass, 27 January 1992.

22/ Ibid., 19 October 1992.

23/ The Cayman Islands Annual Report, 1989, p. 58.

24/ Caribbean Development Bank, Annual Report, 1990.

Notes (continued)

25/ The Caymanian Compass, 25 September 1992.

26/ Ibid., 16 January 1992.

27/ Ibid., 10 March 1992.

28/ Ibid., 26 September 1991.

29/ Ibid., 19 December 1991.

30/ Ibid., 25 February 1991.

31/ Ibid., 20 September 1991.

32/ The Cayman Islands Annual Report, 1989, p. 104.

33/ The Caymanian Compass, 6 October 1992.

34/ The Cayman Islands Annual Report, 1989, p. 105.

35/ The Caymanian Compass, 24 September 1992.

36/ The Pacific Daily News, 30 November 1991.

37/ The Caymanian Compass, 27 May 1992.

38/ Ibid., 9 September 1992.

39/ Ibid., 24 June 1992.

40/ Ibid., 26 March 1992.

41/ Ibid., 1 September 1992.

42/ Cayman Islands, Statistical Abstract 1990, p. 41.

43/ The Caymanian Compass, 28 October 1992.

44/ Ibid., 23 October 1992.

45/ Ibid., 8 April 1991.

46/ Ibid., 9 October 1992.

47/ The Cayman Islands Annual Report, 1989, p. 68.

48/ The Caymanian Compass, 27 March 1992.

49/ Ibid., 20 August 1991.

50/ Ibid., 28 June 1991.

Notes (continued)

51/ Ibid., 9 March 1992.

52/ Ibid., 14 September 1992.

53/ Ibid., 16 October 1992.

54/ Ibid., 29 June 1992.

55/ Ibid., 8 October 1992.

56/ Ibid., 29 October 1992.